**Feb. 3: Starting Right**

Early arrivals, fill out the “Questions I have” page and return to my folder on the front chairs…

Start with prayer and then taking the quiz: “What do I know about Islam?”

1) The religion is Islam, the adherents are Muslims

2) b) Muhammad… (no go to portrait or picture…)

3) c) Mecca (picture, map) Went to Medina to avoid assassination…

4) The book: Quran (Koran is the older English) Sometimes Qur’an

5) c) The New Testament

6) c) 600 AD (born 570 AD, died June 8, 632)

7) False (Abraham, Moses, Noah)

8) False (dead and buried…sites/images?

9) a) 1 (all from Muhammad, no group efforts… Ages 40-62, not much prophecy, more response…

10) d) 1.6 billion….(because it’s a works mentality…It rewards effort, striving for your faith!

I will provide a notes page(s) hole-punched for you to use, file as you wish…not checking the folders.

“If humans head down the wrong spiritual path, all can be lost. Jesus warned in the Sermon on the Mount against all who build their lives on a bad foundation.”

 Someone turn to and read Matthew 7:24-27…

Christians and Muslims have different starting points:

 Muhammad and the Quran…

 Jesus and the New Testament

 All different world religions, hundreds of new religions…

 Pluralists and universalists…all roads lead to the same place…

 Academics—secular scholars.

 what is our “right start” when studying Islam and Muslim things?

 The religion is Islam (noun) the people are Muslims (adjective)

Understanding Him and them and their book in light of Christ and our book…

Resource being James A. Beverly who has studied controversies about religions.

These outlines rely heavily on *Christ & Islam* understanding the faith of the Muslims by James A. Beverly, published by College Press… (outline and structure)

Dr. Beverly is specialist in the study of cults. PhD work on cults and relationship of Christianity to world religions) important to have the “right start”…

**10 keys in Christian Analysis**

1) Christian is to show deep and abiding concern for what is really loving…

 Not out solely to bash, condemn…want to turn and save!

 1 Corinthians 13?

 Loving approach means we will be fair and objective…

 May be times when real love demands a strong condemnation…

2) Deep care for what is really true.

 Christians have been careless in getting the facts straight about Islam.

3) Recognize the contradictions and ultimate disunity that exists between different religions of the world.

Contrary to popular opinion, the many religions of the world do not agree on even basic points.

=Buddhists do not believe in God. (orange dye was available, cut hair to avoid attachment—don’t waste time in the mirror)

 =Jews and Muslims do not accept the Trinity.

 =Mormon males believe they will develop into gods someday.

 =Hindus believe in the worship of idols.

This study will show the ultimate disunity between Islam and Christianity, but it will be an unpopular view in today’s culture of tolerance!

4) Recognize any significant agreement.

 Quran teaching that Jesus is a prophet.

Muslims do believe in prayer…(their discipline of daily prayer could be a lesson or an example for many Christians)

As could their respect for the book…

The idea/realization that Muslims are talented in architecture or medicine is no proof that Islam is correct, it’s proof that God’s grace extends to humans *(rain falls on the just and the unjust)*

 Matthew 5:45…(vs 43-44 not as I understand the Quran!)

5) Be aware of half-truths and misleading arguments

These are used to try to bridge the gap between Jesus and Muhammad or the Bible and the Quran.

Some say that Mohammad was a prophet of God because he taught there was only one God…

 He also denies the deity of Christ and most of the essentials of the Christian faith.

Someone who cheers for Bengals is right…but if they also cheer for Michigan…that is wrong!

6) The Christian must show unwavering allegiance to Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, God’s ultimate and final word to humanity.

The New Testament and the Church have always taught the unique place/role of Christ. The supremacy of Jesus. Jesus is Lord and Savior of all. Period.

Islamic claim that Muhammad is the greatest prophet is in direct contradiction to Philippians 2:6-11, “Every knee shall bow!”

Also, Acts 4:12

This as the primary test, litmus test for any other world religion, is it compatible? Cultic? what do they do with Jesus?

7) The mercy and love of God shown in Jesus is sufficient to answer any concerns about God’s fairness in a world of religions…

 We can’t downplay Jesus or trumpet universalism to fit the mood of the day.

 “What of Muslims who have never heard of the Jesus in the New Testament?”

 How about we work to make sure there aren’t any of those left!!

8) Never forget the wrath of God

Quran certainly doesn’t! (time and time and time again there are orange passages—Hell references!)

A loving response to Islam or any religion does not demand any patience for evil or tolerance of atrocities…

 There are some “Go kill them” passages in the Quran…

 Terrorists who kill in Allah’s name will face the wrath of God!

Bible/Revelation speak of the revenge of the Lord regarding the souls who suffer these atrocities in the name of Jesus.

9) Christians must be in sorrow regarding the wickedness of the Church in the past

Easy to pick on Muslim terrorism in our day…but there is blood in the history of the Church towards both Muslim and Jew… (crusades, Inquisition)

Muslims are greatest threat to Jews today, but in the course of history, Christians have hurt Jews more than Muslims (Rabbi Mark Dratch)

Like the concerns regarding slavery in the early part of our nation’s history…

10) Have a proper understanding of the basics/foundations of the Christian faith.

 people join bizarre cults because they are unsure of the Bible…

 Cults (and Islam) sprinkle in some/enough truth from the Scriptures…

“On Islam, any Christian who knows the Bible will not be impressed by the neglect and misunderstanding of Scripture evident in the Quran.”

Have words of Mohammad or another been proven to be false predictions or otherwise inaccurate?

Not a long list of predictions to test…all in the moment, course of 22 years, on an as-needed basis?

This is God’s Word because I say it is God’s Word!

Historical accuracy, authenticity of the Bible…archeology that stands apart from Mormon and others.

Biblical test for truth, like the question earlier, “What do they do with Jesus?” What do they do with the Bible?

 Revelation 22:18—final words, warning!!

 1 Corinthians 13, when the perfect comes…(vs 9)

 John 16:12—Spirit will guide into all truth…

Please don’t make this a 6-week Quick-fix workshop, then stay away from the regular weekly study…

**Christian confidence in the face of Islam**

 We acknowledge that it is unnerving to study other faiths…

 Never be afraid that our foundation will move or be shaken…

 Matthew 16:18, “On this rock I will build my church!”

Matthew 11:12, Church is advancing forcefully and forceful men lay hold of it

 1 Corinthians 3:10-12, the foundation is Christ…

 Read with open mind, solid background, see readily the faults and fallacies…

I see with Quran as Beverly did with Sun Young moon’s…(helps you actually become more confident!)

 There is a lack of verifiable prophetic word in the Quran.

 Repetitive, not story, narrative, More pointing the finger…

I feel as Beverly, the more closely I examined the person and life of Muhammad, the more clearly I see that he was not in the same category as Jesus Christ.

 Muslims feel differently, wonder if they’ve read as I’ve read…

I’d rather follow the Jesus in the Bible than the Muhammad in the Quran…

 that being said, not everyone needs to do in depth study…

 Green book levels of interest and there are Group Study levels of interest.

 I fall in the middle, I have studied, shared, ask that you trust…

 Faith has not been shaken…

“The word, *courage* forms the core of *encouragement*. Christians need courage in understanding and witness to the Muslim world. One aim of the study is to encourage all of us to have confidence about the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the face of Islamic teaching and Muslim expansion.”

**How Much Do I Already Know?**

1. The religion we are studying is called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and a person who follows that religion is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. How do you spell the name of the founder of Islam?
	1. Muhommad
	2. Muhammad
	3. Mohommad
	4. Matthew
3. The most important/Holy City in Islam is?
	1. Washington D.C.
	2. Medina
	3. Mecca
	4. Jerusalem
4. The important/sacred book to Muslims is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. The book mentioned in question #4 above is roughly the same length as:
	1. The Bible
	2. The Old Testament
	3. The New Testament
	4. The Gospel of John
	5. The Hunger Games
6. Around what century/time period did the founder of Islam live?
	1. 6000 BC
	2. 6 AD
	3. 600 AD
	4. 1600 AD
7. True or False (circle correct one): Jesus is the most-often cited Biblical character in the Quran?
8. True or False: Muhammad died a natural death and then rose from the dead eight days later?
9. How many authors/sources are responsible for the entirety of the Quran?
	1. 1
	2. 10
	3. 28
	4. About 100
10. Approximately how many people are Muslims in the world today?
	1. 56
	2. 1 million
	3. 150 million
	4. 1.6 billion.
11. The Christian is to show \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ concern for what is really \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
12. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ care for what is really \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
13. Recognize the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and ultimate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that exists between different \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the world.
14. Recognize any significant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
15. Be aware of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and misleading \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
16. The Christian must show \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ allegiance to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the only Son of God, God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ word to humanity.
17. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God shown in Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
18. Never forget the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God!
19. Christians must be in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ regarding the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Church in the past.
20. Have a proper understanding of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and foundations of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ faith.

**Things I would like to know…**

List any specific questions you have, answers you would like to have as a result of our next 6 weeks together…

**Our Lesson/Topic Schedule**

February 3: Starting Right

February 10: The Basics about Islam

February 17: Muhammad, the Prophet of God?

February 24: The Quran, the Word of God?

March 2: Jesus and Islam

March 9: The Christian Witness to Islam

**My Notes…**